

**Virginia Department of Health  
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #24  
September 11, 2006**

**WORLDWIDE UPDATE.**

- The World Health Organization has not reported any H5N1 influenza activity among humans since August 23, 2006. The count stands at 241 cases and 141 deaths.

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office**

- Deputy Commissioner and State Emergency Planner briefed the Secure Commonwealth Panel on Pandemic Flu preparation and issues this week.
- Deputy Commissioner, Risk Communications / Public Relations Manager and Northern Region PIO participated in a Region III Pandemic Flu Communications Conference In Philadelphia. This course is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services to train key state and local officials on risk communication issues and principles for pandemic influenza. This training was attended by key health and emergency response officials from Virginia, West Virginia, Washington D.C., Delaware and Pennsylvania.
- VDH commenced internal COOP and Emergency Response Training for non EP&R personnel.
- VDH representatives are engaged with Military Installations on Pandemic Flu Planning.
- **October PanFlu Exercise.** Conducted Mid-term Exercise Planning Conference. VDEM / VEOC and VDH representatives met to discuss EOC scope of participation.
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in the Near SW Region on October 31, postponed from August 22.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

## VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report**

- **Alexandria**
  - Organizing final Mayor's Working Group review of pandemic plan prior to submission to City Council.
  - Briefed Local Emergency Planning Committee on plan. Presenting to large property management group overseeing substantial housing complexes in City.
  - Participated in drill with assisted living facility.
  - September month-end tally shows 7 presentations to community groups.
  - Integrated OCME responsibilities into Isolation and Quarantine annex.
- **Arlington**
  - Director, Planner and State Epi Rep participated in a discussion based seminar at Fort Meyer that focused on their planning for PanFlu; provided presentations about the state and local planning and expected response activities.
- **Central Shenandoah**
  - Director attended Rockbridge County LEPC meeting and discussed Pandemic Flu planning activities in the County and Cities of Lexington and Buena Vista.
  - Planner attended the VDACS Avian Bird Flu table top exercise held in Harrisonburg.
  - Epi attended Bath County LEPC exercise after action meeting to discuss how lessons learned from the June drill will be addressed and how these changes will enhance the County's ability to respond to public health and other emergencies.
- **Chesterfield**
  - Director provided a pandemic influenza presentation to the Chesterfield Emergency Planning Committee.
  - Health Educator provided a pandemic influenza to the Powhatan Lions Club.
  - Interviews were conducted for the PanFlu Health Educator.
- **Crater**
  - The Health Director and Emergency Planner presented a update on Avian Flu and gave a briefing of what planning needs should be looked at by the city at the Petersburg Pandemic Flu Committee. Focus on department planning needs and personal preparedness for workers and citizens will lead the committee's efforts. Committee membership also includes the Assistant City Manager, Emergency Manager, Petersburg Commonwealth Attorney, Sheriff, Police Chief, Utilities, SRMC, Mental Health, and Red Cross. Another presentation requested for the Petersburg Staff Meeting at City Hall in October.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
  - Planner continued planning for the pandemic flu mass vaccination exercise scheduled for November 3, 2006 by drafting a Partner Invitation List and preparing a PanFlu Preparation Checklist.
  - Director assisted KVAT (Food City) pandemic flu planning team with their Continuity of Operations Plan in a pandemic flu event.
  - Cumberland Plateau Health District's Extended Management Team was updated on pandemic flu activities. A managers' workgroup was formed to plan for the mass vaccination exercise.
- **Eastern Shore**
  - Pandemic Influenza presentations given to 40 nurses at Eastern Shore Rural Health Systems, Inc. by health educator

- Pandemic influenza presentation given to Eastern Shore United Methodist Church Disaster Response Committee by Emergency Planner.
- Continuing design of tabletop exercise to coordinate with Exercise "Fowl Play" in October.
- **Henrico**
  - Planner continued the planning process for the Pandemic Flu Mass Vaccination Exercise scheduled for November 4, 2006.
  - Director met with County Manager to discuss the Mass Vaccination exercise on November 4, 2006
  - District sent out the latest issue of the Public Health Bytes newsletter to partners and healthcare providers in the district.
  - Director presented information on personal and family preparedness to Master of Public Health students at Virginia Commonwealth University.
- **Lord Fairfax**
  - The Lord Fairfax Health District Planner met with community partners to continue work on "Valley Shield" - a district exercise that will coincide with "Fowl Play" next month.
- **Loudoun**
  - Met with Northern Regional Planner to collaborate on PanFlu plan issues.
  - Met with Human Services Director to clarify issues for PanFlu plan.
  - Continue to answer numerous business and civic group email and phone inquiries concerning pandemic influenza, and schedule their requests for presentations.
  - Participated in teleconference with VDH and the CDC Washington Quarantine Station regarding the quarantine portion of the Fowl Plague state exercise.
  - Continue refining county PanFlu plan.
  - Completed analysis and an after action report of the six week PanFlu seminar and summit series, including evaluations and input from attendees.
  - Delivered a pandemic influenza presentation to 45 members of the Retired Loudoun County Teachers Association at their monthly meeting in Hamilton, VA.
  - Three thousand PanFlu information and MRC flyers distributed to County Parks and Rec centers with outreach to nine community centers with pre-schools, thirty-five CASA sites and 9 YAS sites impacting senior citizens and children and families in county run day care centers. (sample attached to email)
  - About 10 MRC volunteers stuffed 10,000 calendars containing PanFlu information flyer which will be distributed by the County Library system for residents of Loudoun County.
  - Two booths were staffed at the Dulles Family Fest where about 750 individuals and families received information on pandemic influenza, the MRC, and Code Flu 06.
  - Pandemic flu and Code Flu 06 information was distributed to the local chapter meeting of the DAR attended by 30 members.
  - Updated information on the influenza story board display in the Government Center lobby to reach all residents attending the Board of Supervisors meeting.
- **Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise ("Code Flu 06"):**
  - Conducted a site survey of Heritage High School with Loudoun County Public Schools and Office of Emergency Management representatives in conjunction with selected Loudoun Health Department staff.
  - Conducted Senior Leadership POD Tabletop Exercise (TTX) for 17 Loudoun Health District environmental health, nursing, and administrative staff (pandemic influenza scenario).

- Created an Incident Command System (ICS) organization for the non-response portion of the exercise (evaluation, observation, hotwashes, VIP escorts, etc.)
- Met with Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene representative in regard to filming portions of the exercise to capture still photos and video for documentation and future training purposes.
- Met with the Staging Site Core Group to review the Access registration and job assignment databases created for the exercise to date.
- Prepared and distributed the agenda for upcoming Planning Team Meeting.
- Updated the exercise timeline schedule and responsibility task list.
- Met with the Evaluation Core Group to continue discussion and planning for the evaluation aspects of the staging site and the POD.
- **Mt. Rogers**
  - MRC Coordinator provided PanFlu training at Wythe Presbyterian Church for 30 members of their "Issues & Answers" Committee.
  - MRC Coordinator attended East TN PanFlu Summit at Meadowview Conference Center, Kingsport TN.
- **Peninsula**
  - Epidemiologist presented and answered questions on pandemic influenza—the threat, health department planning, and individual/family preparedness—to approximately 75 District staff members during two staff in-service sessions.
  - Director and Planner met with the executive director and senior staff of the Colonial Community Services Board (CSB) in Williamsburg to discuss pandemic influenza preparedness planning for their staff and clients.
- **Piedmont**
  - Epi and Director attended GIS training in Richmond
  - Meeting with new Prince Edward schools superintendent to discuss PanFlu preparations.
  - PanFlu presentation to medical staff at Southside Community Hospital
  - PanFlu presentation to the Planning District 14 Advisory Committee
  - Distributed PanFlu packets to all clinicians in the District
  - Planner gave PanFlu presentation to the kids at Camp 911 in Amelia County.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
  - District Epidemiologist and Pandemic Influenza Educator met with the Pittsylvania County Emergency Manager to discuss Local Pandemic Flu Awareness Week (Sept. 10-16, 2006) activities in Pittsylvania County. During each night, Monday through Thursday, Pittsylvania County will host a Pandemic Flu presentation and four of the Pittsylvania County middle schools.
  - District Epidemiologist attended the Danville City Council Meeting, where the Mayor of Danville made an official proclamation that September 10-16, 2006 is officially recognized as Pandemic Flu Awareness Week. The proclamation was signed by Mayor Williams and presented to the Health Department. The Pittsylvania County Chairwoman Berger also made the same proclamation.
  - The Pandemic Influenza Educator along with a community volunteer contacted several business and churches with marquees to request that they display one of the three Pandemic Flu messages during Pandemic Flu Awareness Week. So far, 25 organizations have agreed to participate.
  - The Epidemiologist and Pandemic Influenza Educator along with a representative of Corning, Inc. presented seasonal flu and Pandemic flu information to several local businesses at a seminar organized by the Danville Emergency Manager.

- District Epidemiologist was interviewed by WSET Channel 13 News about Pandemic Influenza and why local businesses should prepare.
- District Epidemiologist was interviewed, along with the Danville Emergency Manager, by Danville's Channel 20 for the City Manager's Report. Pandemic Influenza and how the businesses and citizens of Danville can prepare was the topic.
- The Public Education Subcommittee of the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee met and discussed the Town Hall Meeting on Pandemic Flu to be held in October. Speakers are being contacted to request their participation.
- **Portsmouth**
  - Planner gave a presentation on PanFlu to the Dept. of Social Services Division of Child Support Enforcement.
  - Health Educator presented information on Pandemic Flu and respiratory/hand hygiene for the workplace to Portsmouth Dept. of Social Services employees.
- **Prince William**
  - Met with funeral directors and Police to review our Mass Fatality Draft and further identify planning needs.
  - Meeting with county partners and finished our Pandemic presentation for the BOCS.
  - District planning for participation in the Fowl Play exercise
  - Meeting and planning with health district partners for special needs populations.
  - Pandemic and All-hazard planning brochure received by every household in the District. Access to other languages will be placed in government buildings.
  - Pandemic emergency supplies purchased and will be distributed through agencies working with special needs populations, to their clients.
  - All-hazard preparedness supplies have been purchased by the Volunteer
  - Action Center to provide financially restricted clients with personal preparedness supplies.
- **Rapahonock-Rapidan**
  - Presentation on Pandemic Flu to the Culpeper Hospital Board of Directors.
  - Received most of the materials for the community awareness campaign. Still waiting on the last printed material.
  - Continued to distribute voice-over powerpoint materials as requested.
  - Attended 3 health fairs and distributed materials on pandemic flu and personal preparedness.
  - Presentation to Fauquier County Fire and Rescue Association.
  - Contributed an article on business preparedness to the Fauquier Chamber of Commerce newsletter. Sent the article to the other chambers as well.
  - Sent out blast fax survey to physicians in the district for the NW Regional office.
  - Planner and NW Regional Planner presented to the regional home health care association.
  - Conducted training session for RRMRC volunteer Dispensing Site Directors in preparation for the October exercise.
  - Met with Fauquier county school advisory committee to discuss pandemic flu preparedness.
- **Roanoke / Alleghany County**
  - Health Educator & Epi presented PanFlu update to Carilion's Infection Control staff.
  - Health Educator sent PanFlu materials to a retreat of local parish nurses.
  - Planning continued for seasonal flu vaccination clinics. We are partnering with Dabney Lancaster Community College, Craig County High School, Salem Civic Center and Roanoke Civic Center.

- **Southside**
  - Planner met with School Nurse about setting up a meeting for the schools, hospitals, health departments, Social Services, etc. to plan flu prevention campaign this fall.
  - Met with School nursing teacher to plan the location and some details of Mass vaccination clinic in early November.
  - Worked on recruitment plans for volunteers to assist in disasters.
  - Contacted DSS about helping them update and expanding their list of special needs citizens.
  - Worked with IT person to create a shared file and upload local contact database. Notified district staff of the database contents and location.
- **Virginia Beach**
  - Held training for Home Health Providers and will be holding training for Private Schools later in September. Additionally, we will hold a training for Extended Care Facilities in October.
  - Continue meeting monthly with city personnel to work on Pandemic issues and all Work Groups have been actively meeting and will have first report from all at the Sept meeting.
  - Health Educator has set up multiple dates throughout the city to hold Community Forums to educate the citizens.